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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. 028567/0103

In re patent application of

Yuji SHIMIZU

Serial No. 09/642,227

Filed: August 21, 2000



Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Examiner: Unassigned

For: MERCHANTISE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM AND METHOD
FOR THE SAME, AND A COMPUTER PRODUCT

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and 37 C.F.R. §1.97**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on a modified Form PTO-1449 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

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TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The instant Information Disclosure Statement is being filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b), within three months of the filing date. Accordingly, no fee is due.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

A commercial embodiment of the invention was advertised in Japan less than one year prior to the filing date of the present application. Document A1 is a print out of an Internet web-site from September 4, 1999. Document A2 is a copy of a magazine advertisement dated October 1, 1999. English language translations of the relevant portions have been provided.

Applicant respectfully requests that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and formally be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Respectfully submitted,

NOVEMBER 20, 2000

Date


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